

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 30 June 2009

Subject: Environment Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin

Item: 7(d)

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Waste Management Service

A considerable amount of work has now been carried out by officers to move forward the implementation of the new food and garden waste collection service. Orders have been placed through the Essex Procurement Hub for the new wheelie bins, kitchen caddies and kerbside caddies. The wheelie bins will be 180 litre capacity and will have black bodies but with a green lid to differentiate them from our existing residual bins. Kitchen caddies will be provided for all properties, except flats at this stage, and kerbside caddies will be made available for properties which are unable to use the current residual waste bins or would find it impossible to take a second wheelie bin. Officers will carry out assessments of properties in these instances. At the moment it is not possible to include flats in the roll-out of this service but officers will be working with the various management companies and others to find ways to include them as soon as possible

Although this change in service has been made known in various ways already, the first direct delivery of information is going out to residents from 29 June in the form of an introductory letter. There will be an article in the summer edition of the Forester, direct links to information on the Council's website and road shows which will be held around the District. Phone numbers will also be given in the Forester for residents who have specific questions or require more information.

Residents will be informed of the delivery of the new bins in the week prior to them arriving. A pack will be delivered at the same time as the bin giving more information on what can and cannot be placed in the bin as well as details of how food waste can be dealt with. Details on this are still to be finalised.

Inter Authority Agreement

Members may remember that, following our allocation of money from Essex County Council to be used towards the setting up of a food waste collection service, I wrote to County Councillor Tracey Chapman, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste, expressing my concern about the apparent inequalities in the way in which the monies had been allocated to the various Districts and Boroughs in Essex. At the

April Council meeting I informed members that a meeting had been arranged between us following the County Council elections in June. Unfortunately, that meeting had to be cancelled and we are awaiting a new date. I will report back to members as soon as the meeting has taken place via the Council Bulletin.

Loughton Broadway Town Centre Enhancement

Work is progressing well with this project and completion is anticipated for late July, well in time for Debden Day which will be held on 29 August. Despite increased amounts of reconstruction being required when work began on the carriageway the scheme remains within the budgeted figures. I attended a Focus Group meeting on 9 June, along with Councillor Grigg, where officers updated those present on how the scheme was progressing. It was agreed that this would be the last meeting of the Focus Group but that it could be reconvened if required.

Recruitment of Assistant Directors – Planning

Members will be aware that following the resignation of the Assistant Director for Conservation and Policy and the more recent early retirement of the Assistant Director for Development Control there are now two important posts to be filled in the Planning Directorate. Despite going out to advertisement for the Conservation and Policy post and holding interviews on one occasion it has not been possible to make a suitable appointment. Hays have now been brought in to help with this appointment. More interest has been shown in the Development Control post and work will be carried out to assess a long list of candidates to decide who should be called for interview.